A

SERMON

Preach'd before the Right Worſhipful

The Mayor, and Aldermen

OF THE

City of Exon,

At St. *John*'s Chapel, the 31th of *December*,

BEING

The Day appointed for Publick Thankſgiving, for the Glorious Succeſſes vouchſafed to the Arms of Her Majeſty and Her Allies.

By *B. LACY*, M. A. And Maſter of the Grammar-School at *Crediton* in *Devon*.

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To the Right Worſhipful

Nicholas Wood, Eſq.

Mayor of the City of Exon,

And to his Worſhipful Brethren the

ALDERMEN.

SIRS,

IT was the Goodneſs of your Body unexpectedly vouchſafed to me, that I am in a preſent Capacity of Preaching before you; and it was your particular Command that could alone prevail upon me to let the following Diſcourſe appear in Publick; which I the rather comply with, conſidering that the Majority of the People (which were very numerous, tho' uſual upon ſuch ſolemn Occaſions) might not then reap the Benefit intended in theſe Meditations; ſo that now ſuch of them as are ſo diſpos'd, are left, if they pleaſe, to

peruſe them at leiſure; the ſum of what was then delivered being herein contained, without the leaſt Alteration. Their Meanneſs indeed is ſuch, that nothing can expiate the ſame, but your Candid Acceptation, with the Oblation of the Author and his Performances at your Commands; who profeſſeth himſelf held under the ſtricteſt Bonds of Gratitude to remain in all Humility and Reſpect,

YOUR

Moſt Humble, and

Moſt Obedient Servant, and Lecturer,

B. LACY.

PSALM lxviii. V. 1, 2, 3.

Let God ariſe, let his Enemies be ſcattered; let them alſo that hate him flee before him.

As Smoak is driven away, ſo drive them away: As Wax melteth before the Fire, ſo let the Wicked periſh at the Preſence of God.

But let the Righteous be glad, let them rejoyce before God; yea, let them exceedingly rejoyce.

HOLY *David*, when he penn'd this *Pſalm*, had many potent Adverſaries to arm againſt, and oppoſe; of all whom, none bore him a more deadly hatred than *Saul* himſelf; all his Cabals and Efforts tending to work this good Man's deſtruction. And indeed, as *Saul* profeſſed himſelf *David's* open and avowed Enemy, ſo was he no leſs an Enemy to *David's* God, as appears by his great neglect in not bringing the Ark into *Jeruſalem* during his Reign; which doubt-

doubtleſs was one prime cauſe why ſo little Succeſs did attend his Undertakings: which ſinful neglect of his *Divid* made good, by introducing it with great Pomp and Exultation, as ſoon as ever he ſat on the Throne of *Iſrael*; 2 *Sam.* 6. which pious Action being (as he well knew) very grateful to God, embolden'd him at the ſame ſeaſonable Juncture to add a Prayer alſo, containing in it the ſubſequent Requeſt, That God would favour him in his future Enterprizes; more particularly, being ſhortly to encounter with ſome very powerful Adverſaries, he doth implore the immediate Preſence of God to attend and bleſs him in his deſigned Expedition; of which gracious Preſence the Ark was a lively and ſignificant Emblem. And that preciſe Form of Words which this good King then made uſe of, is the Subject of the enſuing Diſcourſe.

Let God ariſe, let his Enemies be ſcattered, &c. Which Words may be interpreted either as a Prayer, being render'd imperatively, *Let God*——, or elſe as a Prediction, and then they may be tranſlated, *God ſhall, or will ariſe:* Either of which imports this Senſe; May God, whoſe eſpecial Providence hath conducted his People (maugre all

all Endeavours to the contrary) into this Land, now graciouſly ſtand by them, that they may be enabled to rout and diſſipate thoſe formidable Enemies, who ſo ſpitefully ſeek to work their Shame and Deſtruction. And although their Numbers are great, and their Malice againſt us far greater, yet if thou, mighty Lord, appear on our ſide, they will be as ſoon diſpirited, and rendered heartleſs, as Smoak is in its own nature apt and liable to be hurried away before the Wind: Nay, they ſhall dwindle away and diſappear like Wax, which at firſt ſeems hard and ſolid, but doth ſoon melt and diſſolve by the Violence of Heat. If thou therefore, gracious Lord, ſhall be pleaſed to hear this Petition, it will needs cauſe wonderful Joy in the Hearts of all thy faithful Servants; ſuch an intenſe Joy, as ſince our Tongues cannot rightly expreſs it, ſhall be manifeſted in all the remaining Actions of our Lives.

This being the plain and obvious Senſe of the Words, I ſhall take occaſion from them to do theſe things:

I. To ſhew you, how God Almighty, by that great Attribute, his Power, doth diſpoſe and order all things

things in this lower World according to his own wiſe Determination.

II. I ſhall ſhew, that God Almighty rarely fails to appear on the ſide of a righteous Prince or People, by a total Overthrow of all their Adverſaries, when they have, by the meaſure of their *Iniquities*, render'd themſelves meet Veſſels for his Wrath. *And,*

III. I ſhall ſhew, that this is, and always will be, ſufficient Reaſon for thoſe thus aſſiſted or deliver'd, to magnify the holy Name of the Lord their God. *And,*

(1.) To ſhew, how God Almighty, by that great Attribute his Power, *&c.* The Omnipotency of God has been always allowed to be ſuch, as to effect whatever he willeth, provided it be conſiſtent with ſuch a Being to put in execution; the which Power he doth exert according to his own good Pleaſure, and according to the Counſel of his Will. For he doth not only preſerve the Frame of Nature, and the regular Operation of all things, by this Power, but he alſo directs and

and governs them ſo as to correſpond with the ſeveral Ends of his Providence. Thus he Temporally rewards or puniſhes the ſundry Inhabitants of the *Terreſtial Globe*, by a ſalubrious or an infected Air, by plentiful or ſcanty Crops; and he impedes and fruſtrates their ſhort-ſighted Projects by Wind or Weather; overthrowing the moſt ſplendid Fleets and glittering Armies; defeating Counſels when deepeſt laid; nay, arbitrating the very Fates of Men and Kingdoms; *Fire and Hail, Snow, Vapours and ſtormy Wind, fulfil his Word*, Pſal. 148. 8. Sometimes, as a Demonſtration of his Power, he ſhuts up the Heavens that it ſhall not Rain; again, he calls to the Clouds (as we have lately and ſorely experienced) that abundance of Water may cover the Earth: There is nothing, how caſual ſoever, but is foreſeen and ordered by the Power of God. *The Lot*, it's true, *is caſt into the Lap: But the whole diſpoſing thereof is of the Lord*, Prov. 16. 33.

If then the Life of every particular Perſon, the Fate of Empires, the Events of Battles, and the Mutations of Government, with what I ſaid before, are ſo frequently determin'd and brought a-

bout by the moſt ſurprizing Contingencies, all Men muſt own, that the Power of God is immediately concern'd in all the Changes and Chances of this mortal Life. And as this is certainly true, ſo is it a ſure Foundation for a righteous Nation to put their Truſt and Confidence in God, how calamitous or deſperate ſoever their outward Condition, or Poſture of Affairs, may at any time ſeem to be; God (powerful as he is) never wanting Means to help: He hath a Thouſand unſeen Methods, a whole Army of unexpected Events at command, to diſappoint ſuch Deſigns, which otherwiſe no other Art or ſubordinate Power can diſappoint; and to ſave thoſe, no other viſible Power can ſave.

And ſurely this was a juſt Conſideration to make holy *David* pray to God to *ariſe and ſcatter his Enemies*, as it was alſo Matter of ſure Confidence, that God would verily do ſo in due ſeaſon. And this leads me to ſhew,

(2.) That God Almighty rarely fails to appear on the ſide of a righteous Nation, by a total Overthrow of all their Adverſaries, when they have, by

by the meaſure of their Iniquities, render'd themſelves meet Veſſels for his Wrath.

That this may be made evident, the Sacred Story tells us, That holy *David*, after his very Settlement on the Throne, had many notorious Conſpiracies form'd, and open Hoſtilities actually enter'd on, againſt him. His Crown was beſet with many Thorns; even *Abſalom* his Son (once the Darling of his Life) revolted from his lawful Sovereign, and rais'd a powerful Rebellion to deprive him of Life and Dignity together; inſomuch, that by his own fair Speeches and very plauſible Pretences, back'd by *Achitophel*'s great Policy and Intereſt, he had gained a great part of the wavering *Iſraelites* on his ſide: However, it pleaſed God to ſhew his determining Power in favour of the righteous King, by totally diſcomfiting that rebellious Army, and by letting him ſee his Deſire over his Enemies; which Enemies were ſore ſmitten in the Wood of *Ephraim*, there being a Slaughter that day of Twenty Thouſand Men, 2 *Sam.* 18. *Mendax Aretalogus.*

David ſaw his Righteouſneſs rewarded very remarkably another time, by an entire Victory over the *Philiſtines* and *Moabites*, who in conjunction had long ſought his Ruine, and the Deſtruction of his Kingdoms; in which memorable Engagement the Power of God ſo enabled him, not only to ſmite *Hadadezer*, but to take from him a Thouſand Chariots, a great number of Horſemen, with Twenty Thouſand Footmen; and when the *Syrians* of *Damaſcus* came to ſuccour this inveterate Enemy of the Servant of the Lord, *David* ſlew of them alſo Twenty Thouſand Men; after which Action, it's ſaid, he put Gariſons into *Edom*, ſo that all they of *Edom* became *David*'s Servants, and the Lord preſerv'd *David* whitherſoever he went.

Thus was the Petition in the Text admitted up to Heaven, and fully anſwered in all its Particulars.

Indeed the true Reaſon aſſign'd, why *David* thus ſaw a total Deſtruction of his numerous Adverſaries, was his having executed Juſtice and Judg-

Judgment unto all his People, 1 *Sam.* 8.15. Thus you ſee, that God of Old Time was ever mindful of ſuch righteous Magiſtrates, as living in the Fear of God, adminiſtred Equity to all their People.

But the Advantages of a ſuperlative Kind, wonderful in themſelves, many in number, which God, the whole run of the Year paſt, has given to the Arms of our gracious Sovereign QUEEN *ANN*, over Her ambitious and reſtleſs Enemies, is a later Confirmation of the aforeſaid Truth. God has been pleaſed to *ariſe up and ſcatter the Enemies* of this Nation: He hath bleſſed us with wonderful Succeſs; ſo that we may plainly perceive, that *the Lord ſaveth his anointed, hearing her from his holy Heaven, with the ſaving ſtrength of his right hand*, Pſal. 10. 6. Deſtroying at the ſame time the Wiſdom of ſome ſeeming Wiſe, and bringing to nought the Underſtanding of their Prudent, that he might deliver thoſe *appointed for the ſword, to the ſword; and thoſe for Captivity, to Captivity*, Jeremiah 15. Verſe 2.

Nothing

Nothing but an immediate Hand of *Providence* could poſſibly effect this, ſo that we muſt needs be convinc'd that *it is the Lord's doing, it being ſo marvelous in our eyes*, Pſal. 118. 13. It is otherwiſe ſtrange to think, that the Leaders of the *French* Troops, environ'd with Legions, attended with an horrible Artillery of Military Engines, ſo that the Earth ecchoed at every Motion under the clattering of their Arms, their Advances giving Terror to the Stouteſt, and Confuſion to the Weaker, before them, marching Noiſe and Threat'nings; after them, Weeping, Ruine and Deſolation; in the midſt of theſe daring Armies, ſtrutted ſo many *Briareus*'s (like Giants with an hundred Arms) full of themſelves, promiſing to demoliſh ſmoaking Cities, and to overthrow Mountains: I ſay, it is wonderful to ſee theſe all of a ſudden drop their Weapons out of their Hands, and have their Hearts poſſeſs'd with a pannick Fear, which forc'd them to cry out with *Pharaoh* and his Followers, *Exod.* 14. 25. *Let us flee from the face of* Iſrael; *for the Lord fighteth for them againſt the* Egyptians.

If any ſeem deſirous to know why thoſe mighty Men of War are all of a ſudden thus Daſtardiz'd, the Reaſons are hugely obvious.

Firſt, Their Tyrannical Maſter hath many Years paſt kept on foot a company of *Miſcreants*, rejoycing in Blood, to Harraſs and Butcher thoſe his own poor Subjects, who aim to reach Heaven in a pure way of primitive Worſhip. This hath made *France* ſuch a ſpacious Field of Blood, that to take an exact Survey of it, as ſuch, would be an endleſs Undertaking; neither is it my Buſineſs to inſiſt hereon, further than to ſhew you, that the *Bloody Spirit of Popery* reigning there, and the *Dark Methods* which have been taken for the Extirpation of the Reform'd Religion in this laſt Reign, is one Reaſon that God has left them to be Chaſtiz'd by their Neighbours in Alliance againſt them.

Secondly, He hath eſpous'd an *Ungodly Cauſe* in reſpect to other Potentates: He hath been long ſtriving to oppreſs the Innocent, and deprive juſt Succeſſors of their undoubted Rights: No Marvel

vel therefore, if all their Plots ſo ſecretly form'd, and their other Attempts, how reſolute ſoever proſecuted, come to nothing; for no State or Kingdom muſt expect to proſper, who have not the Fear of God before their Eyes.

Our Adverſaries themſelves muſt needs reflect by this time, that their paſt *Barbarities* to their own Fellow Subjects, and their unpreſidented Spoiling of their Neighbours, together with their induſtrious fomenting *Inſurrections* in adjacent Countries, are Actions highly diſpleaſing to the Lord of Hoſts; and that therefore their preſent Shame and Diſgrace hath overtaken them: And truly, unleſs Repentance doth prevent, God ſeems to be on his way to make them a By-Word and Ridicule to all round about them. It is not truſting barely in Horſes and Chariots that will be able to Skreen them from the Wrath of an angry God, who hath long look'd down upon their Oppreſſion and Wrong; and hath waited only with Patience to ſee whether they might return to better Minds; which, if theſe their late Calamities (and to my Apprehenſion irrepairable Loſſes) doth not further and haſten, they muſt needs expect

pect full Vials of the Almighty's Diſpleaſure; God having ſundry ways of bringing down the haughty Looks, and humbling the high Stomachs of the Proud.

Let then the Grand Enemy to the Chriſtian Name proceed ſtill to wage an Unjuſt War with Righteous Princes, who aim at nothing more than the Defence of the *Proteſtant Religion* where Eſtabliſhed, and keeping the Ballance of Power equal in *Europe!* But let him know alſo, that he doth then contend againſt Heaven; for *David's* God will ſtand by and aſſiſt Oppreſſed Innocency, and cauſe Ten Thouſand to meet and rout thoſe mighty *Nimrods*, that come againſt them with a far greater Number, *The Battle being not always to the ſtrong*, Eccleſ. 9. 11. God hath Power to arm the whole Creation againſt a Wicked Tyrant; who perſevering to defy the Almighty, muſt look to Encounter all thoſe Creatures which are under the Command of the Lord of Hoſts: Witneſs this in the caſe of proud *Pharaoh* purſuing the *Iſraelites* through the Red Sea, *Pſal.* 136. 15.

But whatever Methods our enraged Adverſaries may take, we who have been all the run of this paſt Year ſurpriz'd with Bleſſings of the firſt Magnitude, and have experienc'd ſuch repeated Inſtances of Divine Favour, as we could ſcarce hope for or expect, muſt needs have our Souls influenced after an extraordinary manner; and by a charming, but an irreſiſtable Violence, muſt needs be forc'd to ſuch a Senſe of them, as is hearty, and every way proportioned to the Bleſſings that occaſion it. For certainly, if Temporal Bleſſings can challenge a full Return of Gratitude, thoſe which we do Commemorate this Day do juſtly call for it from us: Bleſſings of ſo Univerſal an Importance, and like to be attended with ſo many happy Concomitants, as abundantly entitle them to the higheſt Expreſſions of our moſt hearty Acknowledgments, *Ever to remember the Name of the Lord our God*; who, *by teaching our hands to war, and our fingers to fight, hath brought down our Enemies, and cauſed them to fall, whilſt we are riſen and ſtand upright*, Pſal. 20. 7. 144. 1. 10. 8. Which brings me

(3.) To

(3.) To ſhew, that this is, and ever will be, ſufficient Cauſe for thoſe thus Delivered, to laud and magnify the Name of the Lord their God.

The neceſſity of making ſo eaſy a Return, will appear, by conſidering, that God, who is the *Donor* of all good Gifts, looks for ſome ſuitable Return from thoſe he Aſſiſts or Delivers, anſwerable to the Vouchſafements conferred upon them; a grateful Soul being a welcome Sacrifice, preferable by God before any other Oblation: For we read, *Luke* 17. 17, 18. That our Saviour having heal'd the Ten Lepers, wonder'd that only one return'd to make his Thankſgiving. From whence we may learn how baſe and ſelfiſh it is, to beg Bleſſings, and when they are beſtowed, and we have had the end of our Petitions fully anſwered, to go away, or reſt ſatisfy'd (like the Nine ungrateful Lepers) forgetful of the Benefits we have ſo lately receiv'd.

Before God Almighty was pleas'd to appear on our ſide, we appointed our Faſts and Days of Humiliation; and did very importunately beg,

Pſal. 4. 6. That the Light of his Countenance would at length ſhine upon us and our Affairs: We did alſo pray againſt impending Dangers: Then did we ſubmiſſively lay open all our Wants, and with pungent Sorrow bemoan our many Misfortunes (the natural Conſequence of Sin) confeſſing our Inability to help our ſelves; and largely promiſing, what we would do in Return. But now, when *God hath heard us from his holy hill*, Pſal. 3. 4. to come to a few cold dry Thanks; or it may be, not ſo much as that: This, I ſay, looks very monſtrous, as if truly we were not the ſame needy depending Perſons; or elſe, under ſome ill Influence, or ſtrangely alter'd into quite other ſort of Creatures. This is a ready Courſe to ſhew our Ingratitude; than which, nothing more reſembles a Man to the Devil, it being made up of the blackeſt part of his Character, and ſo deſervedly deteſted both by God and Man.

This little ſerves to ſhew, that Thanks is a Debt owing from thoſe that have receiv'd Acts of Kindneſs; and it is the principal Return expected from us at this Juncture, for all thoſe Glori-

ous

ous Victories God hath help'd us to acquire. Now the beſt way to ſhew our Thanks in the General, is to lead ſober and godly Lives, and to live under a lively Senſe of our Obligations to Heaven; for whoever is truly Thankful, will ſincerely perform all thoſe Duties, which the great Benefactor enjoyns them to obſerve. But there is a more particular Subject of our Thanks at preſent, which ſhall be comprized under the following Heads.

Firſt, We have great Reaſon to bleſs God, becauſe the Victories lately obtain'd, are, in all probability, Forerunners of the Happineſs of the Government, both in Church and State. Her Majeſty hath now a Proſpect to Rule Her own People, without fearing any Invaſion from Her Implacable Enemies: Time too ſeems to be advancing on a pace, when She ſhall be able to give Peace to all Her Neighbours.

In the laſt War, abundance of Men and Money were thrown away to procure ſuch a diſhonourable Peace, as work'd much Detriment to the whole Confederacy, without benefiting the leaſt

leaſt part of them: But now, the *Great Breaker* of Leagues and Treaties knows his own Caſe ſo deſperate, that he is become humble enough to crave Terms of Reconciliation, even from thoſe, to whom formerly he did very Magiſterially preſcribe ſuch as he pleas'd; ſo that it will be their own Faults, if they ſecure not to themſelves ſuch a Peace, as may be every way Laſting and Honourable; chiefly, may this Nation never cloſe with any, but upon an Advantageous Bottom! A Nation, that in ſome ſenſe, has born all the Streſs and Weight of the late Diſtractions: For altho' (bleſſed be God) our Country has not been the Seat of any particular War, neither have we ſorrowfully beheld any of thoſe direful Devaſtations uſually committed by wild Ravagers, yet on other Accounts we have born the Brunt and Heat of the Day: Our Houſes and Cities are not burn'd to Aſhes, nor we forc'd to ſeek Refuge in the Deſarts or Corners of the Earth: Our Poor do not periſh for want of Suſtenance, neither are our Daughters rudely handled by the incontinent Soldiers; but many of our neareſt Relations and Fellow-Subjects have been urg'd into the Service, and our Treaſure hath very largely (and I muſt ſay,

ſay, freely and generouſly) been parted with, to carry on thoſe great Ends, which ſeem now to be near effected. And Oh! Shall we not have cauſe to Rejoyce, if we live to hear that Confuſion and Bloodſhed hath ceas'd Abroad? To ſee Peace (that comprehenſive Happineſs) ſettled once more over Harraſs'd *Europe*; that all our poor ſuffering Allies Abroad, abiding under a conſtant Allarm many Years paſt, carrying, as it were, their Lives in their Hands, may once more ſit quietly down under their own Vines, *and ſecurely enjoy the Fruits of their Labour*, Micah 4. 4? When our Swords long ſtain'd in Blood, and made red with Slaughter, ſhall *be beat down into pruning hooks*; at leaſt, chang'd for other Inſtruments of harmleſs and uſeful Agriculture; then ſhall we ſurely have high Reaſons to bleſs the Lord our God.

And as the Civil Government will then be happy, ſo will, we truſt, the Church flouriſh alſo. God, we ſee, has riſen already to ſcatter and rout our Foreign Adverſaries; and we have the ſame Ground to hope, he may in time leſſen or reduce our Domeſtick and National Ones: I don't mean, that

that he will uſe the ſame Expedient for this end, becauſe I pray there may never be the ſame Occaſion; but when God has made a compleat end of diſſipating the former, he will, I hope, turn the Hearts of the latter; making them to ſee their Error, and own their Unreaſonable Obſtinacy, in quitting and flouting at an Eſtabliſh'd Unfaulty Church, to make a Cauſleſs and an Unjuſtifiable *Separation*; thereby rending in pieces the Seamleſs Veſture of Chriſt, and ſo Diſmembering that One entire compacted Body, whereof Chriſt is the only Head on *Earth*, as well as in *Heaven*; by all which, it can be no breach of Charity to ſay, *They are truly Troublers of our* Iſrael: Nay then, we hope, he will Diſcountenance *Faction* and *Party-Intereſt*; cauſing Men to be of One Mind in theſe diſtracted and divided Kingdoms. Indeed, ſhould not God ariſe, ſo as to check or accommodate our Pernicious Differences, we may juſtly fear our Portion of *Calamity* is reſerv'd until laſt, and that we are deſtin'd to bring on our own Ruine; and finally do that among our ſelves, which our Enemies have long aim'd at, but by all their ſecret Miſſionaries, and more publick Force,

Force, could never yet bring about. Nothing therefore, in my weak Judgment, can tend to prevent this, more than a firm and ſincere Adheſion to the Eſtabliſh'd Church, and a conſtant CONFORMITY to all its Reaſonable Injunctions: A CHURCH, which not only the beſt of our Old Nonconformiſts, but even all our Proteſtant Neighbours beyond the Seas, do unanimouſly agree, is the Glory of the REFORMATION; and which hitherto has afforded the beſt Champions to defend it againſt all the Superſtitious Fopperies of *Rome*.

Secondly, We have Reaſon to bleſs God, becauſe he has been pleas'd to make our Sovereign Lady QUEEN *ANN* a Prime Inſtrument of Attaining thoſe Victories. It is owing to her Wiſe and Vigilant *Adminiſtration* of the Publick Affairs, with a Faithful *Management* of the great Funds, that we have cauſe for this Days Rejoycing; otherwiſe the Bravery and Reſolution of *Engliſh-Men* had ſignify'd not much.

We have been long ſtruggling for this Iſſue, tho' it waited not on our Arms, until Her preſent Majeſty was ſeated on the Throne; but ſince Her Acceſſion, this Nation hath rode Triumphant, and muſt appear as great in the Annals of Time, as any other under the Sun.

Here if I deem'd my ſelf a proper Perſon to form Characters, the Occaſion would bear me out to draw that of the QUEEN, *Hoc opus hic labor*, ſince in undertaking this *Herculean* Labour, I fear to reſemble that Painter, who unable to Pencil the beautiful *Helen* with ſo great diverſity of Parts, and Conformity of Members, fill'd his Table with Drapery, which ſeemed Rich, but little to the purpoſe; or rather, like the Renowned *Apelles*, who being employed to draw the Picture of *Venus*, (the imaginary Queen of Beauty) aſſembled all the celebrated Beauties of *Greece* and *Aſia*, that from their External Perfections, he might piece up and imbelliſh his admirable Work. However, thus much I dare to ſay, That the QUEEN

is a Perſon of uncommon *Piety*; for as She practices a Divine Life with great Conſtancy and Exactneſs, ſo She well knows, that Religion cannot be in its full Force, unleſs the Diſpenſers of *Holy Things* be every-where had in a becoming Reſpect.

Hence did She early begin to give them an Engaging Token of Her Sincerity to Religion: She was ſenſible, all Nations expreſſing any Senſe of a Deity, or any Affection to an Eſtabliſh'd Church, have not only conferred Priviledges, diſtinct from others, on thoſe who ſerve at the Altar, but have alſo ſupported them in a decent manner: This made Her pitch upon an excellent Expedient for the more comfortable Proviſion of the Meaner Clergy, a conſiderable Sum, if well and rightly apply'd; which, conſidering Her Good Intentions, we have reaſon to hope, will be faithfully diſpers'd and appropriated, where it may be moſt wanting.

Thus hath She bountifully diſpers'd abroad, and given to the Poor, Her *Righteouſneſs will remain for ever, and Her Horn ſhall be exalted with Honour*, Pſalm 112. 9. Hence will Her Reign be attended with ſuch a Series of Succeſs, as will evidence her to be the Darling of Heaven, as She hath always been the Joy of Her Subjects.

Thirdly, and Laſtly. We have Reaſon to bleſs God for having put it into Her Majeſty's Heart, to appoint ſuch Generals over Her Forces. I ſhould deem the Duty of the Day imperfect, did not I give that great Man his juſt Encomium, from whoſe all-conquering Sword *France* and *Bavaria* receiv'd ſuch fatal Blows, that the *Danube* and *Geet* has gained more glorious Names than *Simois* or *Scamander*. *Julius Cæſar*'s Motto was, *Veni, Vide, Vici*, and this great Hero wants only the ſame Independent Command to render him Equal with *Julius* in Renown.

But I am not ty'd up to any particular Perſon's Performances, as to extol him to the forgetting all the reſt; for they have all ſhewn themſelves well Accompliſh'd in the Art of War, and Indued with the chief Properties that conſtitute Heroick Fortitude. Hence is it, that their Martial Spirits have been directed to execute ſuch Noble Deſigns, as have, and will ſtill ſucceed. Nay, hence have they ſo entirely won the Hearts of us, that reflect upon, and weigh the Merit of their Actions, and of the Soldiers that bore ſo great a Share in them, that as we on the one hand ſhall not ceaſe to pray for a further Progreſs to their Atchievements, ſo will not they, I preſume, ever fear following them, where-ever they lead on, be it to the Mouth of the greateſt Danger.

To Conclude. As we deſire to ſee the Divine Juſtice diſplay its Power, in bringing down the Pride of that Haughty Pretender, who hath long thought nothing could ſtop his Career: And as we look for a ſpeedy Iſſue to this Tedi-

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ous and Expenſive War, let us all be perſwaded to live in the Fear of the Lord, who daily loads us with Benefits, and is *the God of our Salvation*, Pſal. 68. 19. *So ſhall the mighty be ſurely put down from their ſeat, as there ſhall be an exaltation of the humble and meek*, Lu. 1. 52. Then ſhall a laſting Series of Happineſs and Proſperity attend Her Majeſty's Perſon and Government, and a perpetual Calm over-ſhadow this Pure, but too much Slighted and Neglected, CHURCH. *All which God grant, for his Son's ſake, Jeſus Chriſt our Lord and bleſſed Saviour.*

Amen.